



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

### APRIL 2005 EDITION

## Feds Pre-empt Local Control of LNG Siting

The application by a huge Australian corporation to moor a floating regasification LNG storage platform offshore from Oxnard and Malibu has generated great concern among residents in both of these cities about the appropriateness of this populated area for a technology that has never been tried before. LNG would be transported from the platform via an undersea pipeline. Environmental documents have been prepared and circulated for public comment, and thousands of pages of comments and concerns are still being responded to.

In the meantime, the Federal energy bill in Washington, D.C. precludes states from having any meaningful role in the siting of LNG facilities. I will be working with Congressional representatives Henry Waxman and Lois Capps on this concern. They advised that an amendment to strike the pre-emption part of the bill was offered, but failed. If the bill passes with this provision and is signed by the President, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is going to be the final arbiter over approval of all LNG import terminals. This would be a terrible precedent and a real blow to local control.

### **Two pieces of related California legislation**

California Senate Concurrent Resolution 40, by Senator Lowenthal, will formally ask the President and Congress to take the necessary action to preserve state and local authority over the siting of LNG facilities. It will be heard in committee on May 4.

SB 426 by Senator Simitian will require the California Energy Commission to make an LNG needs assessment study to look at demand and supply for natural gas and alternatives, and to determine the number of LNG terminals, if any, that are actually needed to meet California's projected natural gas demand.

## A Cleaner Environment Loses Out in Fed Energy Bill

As many of us were just celebrating Earth Day, Congress was approving a Federal energy bill that will open the Alaska National Wildlife Arctic Refuge (ANWAR) to oil drilling. Current prohibitions against increased oil drilling off our coastal waters are also placed at risk, and it encourages more investment in polluting fossil fuels, like coal. Although the President likes to refer to his "Clear Skies" initiative, in fact, it is a stark reversal of the progress that we have been making in cleaning up our air, including breaks to polluting industries and a weakening of the current requirements that they clean up their own emissions and contaminants.

The Bush energy plan does NOT:

- Encourage a significant investment in safe, clean renewable energy sources
- Reduce our gasoline prices and dependence on fossil fuels
- Clean up our air or reduce greenhouse gases
- Or address or increase fuel efficiency standards in cars.

The average consumption has actually increased over the past 10-15 years because of our desire for larger vehicles. In addition, fuel standards for passenger cars haven't changed in 20 years. New technologies, not just making cars smaller, can make cars more efficient.

By simply increasing fuel efficiency requirements by a few miles per gallon, we could save enough oil to equal what might be expected to come from drilling in ANWAR or off California's coast. Drilling in ANWAR won't make a dent in our actual needs, and wouldn't be producing for many years into the future. Conservation measures, investment in mass transit, an increase in fuel efficiency standards, and support for clean environmentally-friendly alternative fuels should be in the Bush plan.

## Santa Monica Formally Supports Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol, which went into effect in February, is an international treaty that sets deadlines for the reduction of harmful industrial gas emissions. Although 140 nations have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, the U.S. stands virtually alone among major industrialized nations since the Bush administration retracted U.S. support in 2001.

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels is asking American cities to adopt the Kyoto Protocols if Washington, D.C. won't. Santa Monica will be signing on to a resolution with at least 10 other cities committing to policies that will begin to reduce the industrial emissions that scientists and the world knows contribute to global warming. Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor says that she plans to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors in June to join this coalition of cities known as "the Green Team."

Congratulations and my thanks to Santa Monica for this very progressive show of support for cleaner air, and for being a model city incorporating renewable energy and a host of other sustainable practices into all of its city activities and policies.

## State Legislators Name Their "Women of the Year"

Every year, the California Legislative Women's Caucus sponsors its "Woman of the Year" celebration. Each Assemblymember and State Senator selects a woman from his or her district who has contributed significantly to her community.

Santa Monica resident, Suzanne Verge, President of the L.A. West Chapter of the Million Mom March, was my "Woman of the Year" for her advocacy on gun control with the Million Mom March. State Senator Sheila Kuehl named Brentwood resident, Kathy Silverton, founder of *Stitches from the Heart*, a group that knits items for low-income parents of newborns, as her "Woman of the Year."

## Naval Base Ventura County Faces BRAC Process

The Federal government periodically evaluates the usefulness and need for military bases across the United States. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is currently underway again. The base is a major employer in the county and a critical part of the local economy, among countless other contributions that it makes.

The Oxnard Harbor District was contemplating a possible expansion project onto the base property that I believe was ill-timed and could increase the risk that NBVC might be closed. Accordingly, on April 4, I sent a letter to the Harbor District. It stated my support for the unanimous requests from all ten Ventura County cities and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors that the Oxnard Harbor District immediately stop all activities related to their contemplated expansion until the BRAC process concludes some time later this year. I was pleased to see that the District recently reported in the press that they intend to support the retention of NBVC and will do nothing that might jeopardize the base's viability.

## *"Operation Safe Canyons" Launched*

On April 14, my office joined the California Highway Patrol West Valley Area, in conjunction with Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, at the launch of a new joint effort to confront the growing problem of illegal car and motorcycle racing and other unsafe driving practices on canyon roads in the Santa Monica Mountains. Members of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, Malibu/ Lost Hills Station, along with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will be important partners in *Operation Safe Canyons*. The site for the press event was an overlook on Mulholland Highway, where the skidmarks of spinouts, both from showing off and from loss of control, were particularly evident.

The frequency of road racing in the mountains has been on the increase in recent years because of advancements in high performance vehicles, communication technologies like the Internet that help road racers know when and where they think they are more likely to avoid law enforcement, plus other contributing factors such as the City of Los Angeles' street racing ordinance that has pushed illegal racing into County areas. Just in the past three years, the CHP has reported over 1,000 traffic collisions and 16 fatal collisions in the canyons. More than 16,000 citations have been issued. The new Designated Enforcement Teams should provide a determined new focus on stopping these very dangerous drivers.



Supervisor Yaroslavsky (center)

### **Hand over the keys ... permanently?**

L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who represents the Santa Monica Mountains, wants to take it one step further. On April 19, he won approval from the entire Board of Supervisors to have an ordinance prepared that will give the L.A. County District Attorney the option of seeking vehicle seizure and forfeiture as an additional penalty in cases of speed contests in all unincorporated areas of the County. If adopted by the Board, it is hoped that the prospect of losing their fast cars or motorcycles will make these irresponsible speeders think twice.

## Sustainable41 Awards to Business

I have decided to initiate a new program to recognize businesses in the 41<sup>st</sup> AD that incorporate sustainability policies and practices in their operations. This was prompted by a local supermarket in my district that set up a simple box for battery recycling inside their store. It was overflowing when I noticed it. By making it convenient for their customers, those discarded batteries will not end up in landfills, leaking their acid and other toxins into the soil and groundwater.

If you are aware of a company that has adopted environmentally-friendly practices into the way that it does business, I'd like to know. I will be sending them a Sustainable41 certificate of recognition that they can display to their customers, and will thank them publicly in this newsletter.

Many sustainable business practices have direct economic benefits to the companies themselves, such as changes in landscaping choices to increase building shade and lower A/C and water bills, finding new ways to reduce what is thrown into the trash, buying fuel-efficient vehicles and energy-efficient equipment, using solar and "green" construction technologies, etc.

Please e-mail your nominations to me at [Assemblymember.Pavley@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Pavley@assembly.ca.gov), or drop a note to my Woodland Hills District Office. Businesses that are "doing the right thing" deserve to be recognized, and I very much look forward to learning what my district businesses are doing to save resources and do business in healthier ways.



# Soka University Now Owned by All Californians

On Friday, April 15, the 588-acre Soka University, now returned to its historic name – King Gillette Ranch – was purchased by a partnership of park agencies that will hold and manage it for public use and enjoyment for generations to come. A celebration to cheer close of escrow was held on the campus. Present were a host of local elected officials, representatives from park agencies, gracious representatives of Soka, and many community members who contributed to the private fundraising drive that helped put the funding over the top.

Soka will remain in possession for the next three years in order to allow their current students to finish up and graduate. This will also give the park agencies – the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, California State Parks, and the National Park Service – time to engage the public in the long-range joint management planning that will define the many wonderful uses for this extraordinary property.

This property is unique in many ways, one of which is the beautiful historic buildings on the campus that have been so carefully maintained over the years. Congratulations to all Californians who voted for the various park bond acts that provided the funding for this acquisition. This could not have happened without each one of you.





## What Did FERC Know About Enron? And When?

Everyone wondered during the energy crisis of 2001, and even more so since then, whether the rolling blackouts and announced energy shortages were real or manipulated. Billions of dollars were committed to long-term energy contracts under the threat of continuing blackouts.

Earlier this year, the FBI released audio tapes that they obtained that appear to indicate that the FERC has refused to investigate mounting evidence of physical coordination and withholding of power by numerous power plant operators, including Enron. FERC has a duty under the Federal Power Act to make all information in their possession available to state authorities. I join with Senator Martha Escutia in her call, as Chair of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, for FERC to release all documents now so that the California PUC can perform its enforcement duties, and so that we will finally know what FERC knew, and when they knew it.



Photo Courtesy of California State Parks Foundation

## Earth Day at Will Rogers State Park

My family and I celebrated Earth Day, April 23, at Will Rogers State Park with the California State Parks Foundation. Volunteers were working on a variety of projects like trail restoration. The Pavleys were knee-deep in non-native castor plants, which have to be removed or they choke out the native plants and throw off the natural balance. Earth Day is a great reminder of our covenant to protect the environment. Foundation Chair Don Robinson is a constituent of the 41<sup>st</sup> AD, and I very much enjoyed joining him and the many other people who were having such a good time helping with these important projects.

## Don't Throw Away that Old Refrigerator . . .

According to a recent analysis by the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, more than three million major appliances enter the waste stream each year. If you're a Southern California Edison residential customer, **they'll pay you**, to haul away your old inefficient refrigerator or freezer. One call, and they'll take it to the recycling center, and they'll send you a check for \$35. To schedule a free pick up, just go to their website at [www.sce.com/pickup](http://www.sce.com/pickup) and fill out the simple form.

## . . . And Take Action Now to Reduce your A/C Bills

Southern California Edison also has a program for their customers to help reduce summertime air conditioning costs. By enrolling in one of three Summer Discount Plans, savings can be as much as \$200. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. You can call (800) 684-8123 and request an application, or go to [www.sce.com/sdp](http://www.sce.com/sdp), and click on "Summer Discount Plan" for more information.

## Free Small Business Tax Seminar

John Chiang, Chair of the State Board of Equalization, is hosting a very informative seminar for small businesses on **Friday, May 13, Pierce College, Campus Center Building, 6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from the experts at no cost. Topics include basic sales and use tax, employee vs. independent contractor, the Bad Check Restitution Program, California labor laws and regulations, and how to start and finance a small business.

Registration forms are available through my district office. Just call and the informational flyer and form will be faxed to you. Pre-registration is recommended.

## 2005 Women with Organic Style

I was deeply honored in April to be one of ten women nationally who were recognized in New York by *Organic Style* magazine as their "2005 Women with Organic Style." The event was held at Lincoln Center's New Jazz Center, overlooking Central Park.

The presenters were remarkable in their own right. Peggy Shepard, a true environmental hero in New York City, especially on issues of environmental justice and air quality, presented my award to me. I was recognized for authoring the landmark bill here in California that will force car and light-duty truck manufacturers to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions beginning in 2009.

Other states are following our lead. People were dismayed to learn that both American and foreign automakers have filed lawsuits to avoid having to comply with these new regulations.



Photo Courtesy of Organic Style

Here is just a taste of what the other nine award winners are doing.

- **Helen Hunt**, actress. In addition to a host of acting awards, she advocates on behalf of art education in schools, get-out-the-vote campaigns, and cleaning California's polluted coastal waters.
- **Sarah Takesh**, socially responsible entrepreneur. The business plan for her clothing company that pays sustainable wages to women in Afghanistan won the grand prize at the Global Social Ventura Competition in 2003.
- **Ann E. Whitney**, natural foods entrepreneur. Co-founded two all-natural food companies. She is also a source for information on organic gardening and environmental scholarships.
- **Alison Kraus**, singer and fiddler. Her 17 Grammy awards are more than any other female artist. She has played and sung on classical, jazz, pop, country, bluegrass and even polka albums.
- **Johari Cole**, organic farmer. Once a drug company scientist, now a member of an African American organic farmers' collective that supplies inner-city greenmarkets and top restaurants.
- **Stella McCartney**, top fashion designer by her mid-twenties. From the beginning, refused to use any fur or leather in her designs, preferring to consider our fellow creatures and Mother Nature.
- **Jessica Seinfeld**, wife of Jerry Seinfeld and founder/president of Baby Buggy. A nonprofit that refurbishes and distributes used and new baby gear in N.Y.City. Raised funds for 1.5 million diapers to needy children in 2004.
- **Zana Briski**, photographer/filmmaker. Taught photography to children of prostitutes in India, which led her to make Oscar-winning *Born in Brothels*. New nonprofit empowers marginalized children.
- **Marian Wright Edelman**, founder of Children's Defense Fund. Long and distinguished record in working to get a healthy, fair, safe, and moral start in life for every child.

The magazine describes this year's award winners as "creative, passionate women who consider service to the earth and the creatures on it an important part of their accomplished and joyful lives. They are highly individual, open to surprises, don't take themselves too seriously, and never give up. This year's extraordinary Women with Organic Style are each deeply, particularly invested in leaving a good legacy." For more information, see the May issue on the magazine's website at [www.Organic.Style.com](http://www.Organic.Style.com).

## Human Trafficking a Growing Issue

Having recently returned from a trip to Japan, I have a heightened awareness of the growing issue of human trafficking there, in the rest of the world . . . and right here in California. I am a coauthor on SB 180, introduced by Senator Kuehl, which establishes for the first time a statewide response to human trafficking.

Every 10 minutes, a man, woman, or child is recruited, kidnapped, or smuggled into the U.S. to work as a modern-day slave. Most come from Latin America, countries of the former Soviet Union, and Southeast Asia. The figures of 600,000 to 800,000 people traded against their will every year is probably understated since many cases are never discovered.

At present, state agencies are doing little or nothing to address this problem. SB 180 will bring together relevant state agencies, law enforcement, and service providers to address issues of data collection, victim protection and services, prosecution of traffickers, and increasing public awareness that the problem exists. It also calls for a standardized medical curriculum and training program for health care providers to help them screen and identify victims, and similar training for peace officers.

## Medicare Rx Benefits Bad for States

Although Congress intended in its new Medicare law to help states with the cost of prescription drugs for low-income elderly people, many states are finding that the math comes out otherwise. Medicaid is the federal/state program that covers low-income people, including their drug costs. Although on January 1, Medicare will take over those drug costs, states will have to make monthly payments to the federal government to help defray them. California's Medicaid director, for example, has said that this new federal Medicare law will cost California \$215 million starting in July 2006. This happens because the federal government will assume about \$1.2 billion in current drug costs, but our payments to the feds will be \$1.4 billion. "And," he says, "it gets worse after that." So after the Bush administration engaged in a PR offensive of self-congratulation for this supposedly great new program for seniors, California has been left to figure out how to pay more now, not less, for a program over which we have no control.

## L.A. County Honors Two District Volunteers

In February, I congratulated Diane Haupt, Agoura Hills library volunteer extraordinaire, when she was named by L.A. County as their Public Library Volunteer of the Year. A wonderful luncheon was hosted by the County this month, where each County department's Volunteer of the Year was publicly thanked.

I was happily surprised to find that another 41<sup>st</sup> AD resident, Pat MacNeil, was named by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky as his honoree for her leadership with the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP). Topanga Canyon has had more than its share of natural disasters – fire, floods, rock and mud slides, road failures, etc. As one of Pat's admirers stated, "Pat's tireless efforts to improve Topanga's emergency preparedness built the T-CEP into one of the most effective organizations in the County." Topanga residents have come to rely on T-CEP as an instant hotline and reliable website for up-to-the-minute information when disaster hits. Congratulations, Pat, and thank you!

# Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Budget Committee  
Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources  
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality  
Select Committee on Runaway Production

Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board  
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

## HOW TO REACH ME:

### District Office:

6355 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 205  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Phones: (818) 596-4141 • (805) 644-4141 • (310) 395-3414  
Fax: (818) 596-4150

### Capitol Office:

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041  
Phone: (916) 319-2041  
Fax: (916) 319-2141

**E-mail: [assemblymember.pavley@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.pavley@assembly.ca.gov)**

Or visit my website at [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)

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